PATENT APPLICATION
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INVENTOR(S): David C. Gast **CONFIRMATION NO.:** 8782

SERIAL NO.: 10/829,438 **GROUP ART UNIT:** 2854

FILED: April 20, 2004 **EXAMINER:** Marini, Matthew G.

SUBJECT: SCANNING A MEDIA STACK

THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

APPELLANTS'/APPLICANTS' OPENING BRIEF ON APPEAL

1. Real Party In Interest.

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP, a limited partnership established under the laws of the State of Texas and having a principal place of business at 20555 S.H. 249 Houston, TX 77070, U.S.A. (hereinafter "HPDC"). HPDC is a Texas limited partnership and is a wholly-owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company, a Delaware Corporation, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA. The general or managing partner of HPDC is HPQ Holding, LLC.

2. Related Appeals And Interferences.

There are no other appeals or interferences known to Appellants, Appellants' legal representative or the Assignee which will affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

3. Status Of Claims.

Claims 1-16, 18-23, and 25-47 and 49 are pending. Claims 28-47 and 39 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 17, 24, and 48 have been cancelled. Claims 1-16, 18-23, and 25-27 stand rejected. All rejections are appealed.

4. Status Of Amendments.

No amendments have been filed after the final action was entered. All other previous amendments have been entered.

5. Summary Of Claimed Subject Matter.

Claim 1 recites an apparatus that includes a tray, a sensor, a transport mechanism, and control logic. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, paragraph [0029], lines 26-33 and Fig. 4. The tray is for holding a media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, paragraph [0029], lines 26-33 and Fig. 4. The media stack has opposing faces joined by sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. A pattern is formed on at least one of the sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. The pattern includes a plurality of sub-patterns.

See, e.g., Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each sub-pattern is formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each sub-pattern encodes imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraphs [0017] and [0018], lines 7-28 and Fig. 1. The imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifies an expected number of sheets in that subset. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. The transport mechanism is operable to move the tray past the sensor to scan the sub-patterns. . *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 6, paragraph [0033], lines 24-31 and Fig. 6. The control logic operable to communicate with the sensor to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, pages 6, line 32 through page 7, line 13, paragraphs [0034]-[0035] and Fig. 8.

Claim 3 recites a media source that includes a tray, a transport mechanism, a sensor and control logic. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, paragraph [0029], lines 26-33 and Fig. 4. The tray is for holding a media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, paragraph [0029], lines 26-33 and Fig. 4. The media stack has opposing faces joined by sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. A pattern is formed on at least one of the sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. The pattern includes a plurality of sub-patterns. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each sub-pattern is formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each sub-pattern encodes imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraphs [0017] and [0018], lines 7-28 and Fig. 1. The imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifies an expected number of sheets in that subset. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. The transport mechanism is operable to move the tray between a first position in which the media stack can be loaded onto

the tray and a second position in which a sheet from the media stack loaded onto the tray can be fed into a print path of an imaging device. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 6, paragraph [0033], lines 24-31 and Fig. 6. The sensor positioned so that it can scan the sub-patterns as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first and second positions. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 6, lines 1-8, paragraph [0030] and Figs. 4-7. The control logic is operable to communicate with the sensor to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, pages 6, line 32 through page 7, line 13, paragraphs [0034]-[0035] and Fig. 8.

Claim 6 recites a media source that includes a tray for holding a media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, paragraph [0029], lines 26-33 and Fig. 4. The media stack has opposing faces joined by sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. A pattern is formed on at least one of the sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. The pattern includes a plurality of sub-patterns. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each sub-pattern is formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each sub-pattern encodes imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraphs [0017] and [0018], lines 7-28 and Fig. 1. The imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifies an expected number of sheets in that subset. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. The system includes means for moving the tray between a first position and a second position. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 6, paragraph [0033], lines 24-31 and Figs. 4-7. The system includes means for scanning the sub-patterns as the tray is moved between the first position and the second position. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 6, lines 1-8, paragraph [0030] and Figs. 4-7. The system also includes means for deciphering the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, pages 6, line 32 through page 7, line 13, paragraphs [0034]-[0035] and Fig. 8.

Claim 9 recites a data identification system that includes a tray, a transport mechanism, a sensor, and logic. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, paragraph [0029], lines 26-33 and Fig. 4. The tray is for holding a media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, paragraph [0029], lines 26-33 and Fig. 4. The media stack has opposing faces joined by sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. A pattern is formed on at least one of the sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. The pattern includes a plurality of sub-patterns. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each sub-pattern is formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each sub-pattern encodes imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraphs [0017] and [0018], lines 7-28 and Fig. 1. The imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifies an expected number of sheets in that subset. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. The transport mechanism is operable to move the tray between a first position and a second position. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 6, paragraph [0033], lines 24-31 and Figs. 4-7. The sensor is positioned to scan the sub-patterns as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first position and the second position. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 6, lines 1-8, paragraph [0030] and Figs. 4-7. The logic is coupled to the sensor and operable to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, pages 6, line 32 through page 7, line 13, paragraphs [0034]-[0035] and Fig. 8.

Claim 13 depends from Claim 9 and recites that the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes parameter settings for a corresponding subset of sheets. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, lines 7-19, paragraph [0020]. The control logic is operable to decipher the given sub-pattern to identify the parameter settings. *See, e.g.*, Specification, pages 6, line 32 through page 7, line 4, paragraph [0034].

Claim 19 is directed to an imaging device that includes a print engine and a media source. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 4, lines 28-32, paragraph [0024] and Fig. 3. The print engine operable to form an image on a sheet of media. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, lines 1-6, paragraph [0025] and Fig. 3. The media source operable to supply a media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 4, lines 17-22, paragraph [0022] and Figs. 2-4. The media source includes a tray, a transport mechanism, a sensor, a transfer mechanism, and control logic. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, paragraph [0029], lines 26-33 and Fig. 4. The tray is for holding a media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, paragraph [0029], lines 26-33 and Fig. 4. The media stack has opposing faces joined by sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. A pattern is formed on at least one of the sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. The pattern includes a plurality of sub-patterns. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each sub-pattern is formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each sub-pattern encodes imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraphs [0017] and [0018], lines 7-28 and Fig. 1. The imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifies an expected number of sheets in that subset. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1.

The transport mechanism is operable to move the tray between a first position and a second position. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 6, paragraph [0033], lines 24-31 and Figs. 4-7. The sensor is positioned to scan the sub-patterns as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first position and the second position. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 6, lines 1-8, paragraph [0030] and Figs. 4-7. The transfer mechanism is operable to transfer sheets of media from the media source to the print engine. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, lines 7-11, paragraph [0026] and Fig. 3. The control logic is in communication with the media source, the print engine, and the transfer mechanism. The control logic is operable to decipher the imaging data from the

sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack and to control the operation of the print engine with respect to each subset of sheets according to the imaging data for that subset of sheets. *See, e.g.*, Specification, pages 6, line 32 through page 7, line 13, paragraphs [0034]-[0035] and Fig. 8.

Claim 21 depends from Claim 19 and recites that the imaging device includes a user interface in communication with the control logic. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 7, lines 14-20, paragraph [0036] and Figs. 8, 12, and 13. The control logic is operable to cause the user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for one or more of the subsets of sheets. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 7, lines 14-20, page 10, lines 11-27, paragraph [0036] and [0048]-[0050] and Figs. 8, 12, and 13.

Claim 22 depends from Claim 21 which depends from Claim 19. Claim 22 recites that the control logic is operable to cause the user interface to generate a display that includes user selectable options corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for one or more of the subsets of sheets. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 7, lines 14-20, page 10, lines 11-27, paragraph [0036] and [0048]-[0050] and Figs. 8, 12, and 13.

Claim 23 depends from Claim 19 and recites that the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes imaging parameter settings and that the imaging device includes a user interface in communication with the control logic. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, lines 7-19, paragraph [0020] and page 7, lines 14-20, paragraph [0036] and Figs. 8, 12, and 13. The control logic is operable to cause the user interface to display information corresponding to the imaging parameter settings for the subset of sheets on which the given sub-pattern is imprinted. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 7, lines 14-20, page 10, lines 11-27, paragraph [0036] and [0048]-[0050] and Figs. 8, 12, and 13.

Claim 25 depends from Claim 19 and recites that the imaging data for each sub-pattern includes an expected number of sheets of media in a corresponding subset of

sheets on which the pattern is imprinted. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. The imaging device further comprises a user interface in communication with the control logic. *See, e.g.*, Specification, pages 6, line 32 through page 7, line 13, paragraphs [0034]-[0035] and Fig. 8.The control logic is further operable to cause the user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the expected number of sheets in the media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 7, lines 14-20, page 10, lines 11-27, paragraph [0036] and [0048]-[0050] and Figs. 8, 12, and 13.

Claim 26 recites an imaging device that includes a print engine, a first media source, a second media source, a transfer mechanism, and control logic. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 4, lines 12-32, paragraphs [0021]-[0024] and Figs. 2 and 3. The print engine is operable to form an image on a sheet of media. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, lines 1-6, paragraph [0025] and Fig. 3. The first media source operable to supply a first media stack while the second media source is operable to supply a second media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 4, lines 17-22, paragraph [0022] and Figs. 2-4.

The first media source includes a first tray, a first transport mechanism, and a first sensor. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, paragraph [0029], lines 26-33 and Fig. 4. The first tray for holding the first media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, paragraph [0029], lines 26-33 and Fig. 4. The first media stack has opposing faces joined by sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. A first pattern is formed on at least one of the sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. The pattern includes a plurality of first sub-patterns. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each first sub-pattern is formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each first sub-pattern encodes imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraphs [0017] and [0018], lines 7-28 and Fig. 1. The imaging data for at least one

subset of sheets identifies an expected number of sheets in that subset. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. The first transport mechanism is operable to move the first tray between a first position and a second position. The first sensor positioned to scan the first sub-patterns as the first transport mechanism moves the first tray between the first position and the second position. . *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 6, paragraph [0033], lines 24-31 and Figs. 4-7.

The second media source includes a second tray, a second transport mechanism, and a second sensor. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, paragraph [0029], lines 26-33 and Fig. 4. The second tray is for holding the second media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, paragraph [0029], lines 26-33 and Fig. 4. The second media stack has opposing faces joined by sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. A second pattern is formed on at least one of the sides. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0016], lines 1-6 and Fig. 1. The second pattern includes a plurality of second sub-patterns. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each second sub-pattern is formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. Each second sub-pattern encodes imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraphs [0017] and [0018], lines 7-28 and Fig. 1. The imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifies an expected number of sheets in that subset. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 3, paragraph [0018], lines 20-28 and Fig. 1. The second transport mechanism is operable to move the second tray between a third position and a fourth position. The second sensor is positioned to scan the second sub-patterns as the second transport mechanism moves the second tray between the third position and the fourth position. . *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 6, paragraph [0033], lines 24-31 and Figs. 4-7.

The transfer mechanism operable to transfer sheets of media from the first and second media sources to the print engine. . *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 5, lines 7-11, paragraph [0026] and Fig. 3. The control logic is in communication with the first and second media sources, the print engine, and the transfer mechanism. . *See, e.g.*,

Specification, page 5, lines 12-18, paragraph [0027] and Fig. 3. The control logic is operable to decipher the first and second sub-patterns to identify imaging data for each of the first subsets of sheets in the first media stack and second media data for each of the second subsets of sheets in the second media stack. *See, e.g.*, Specification, pages 6, line 32 through page 7, line 13, paragraphs [0034]-[0035] and Fig. 8. The control logic is operable to control the operation of the transfer mechanism and to control the operation of the print engine so that the first imaging data for a given one of the subsets of sheets in the first media stack is used when a media sheet from that given subset of sheets from the first media stack is transferred from the first media source and the second imaging data for a given one of the subsets of sheets in the second media stack is used when a media sheet from that given subset of sheets from the second media stack is transferred from the second media source. *See, e.g.*, Specification, pages 6, line 32 through page 8, line 18, paragraphs [0034]-[0039] and Fig. 8.

Claim 27 depends from Claim 26 and recites a user interface in communication with the control logic. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 7, lines 14-20, paragraph [0036] and Figs. 8, 12, and 13. The control logic is operable to cause the user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for the subsets of sheets in the first and second media stacks. *See, e.g.*, Specification, page 7, lines 14-20, page 10, lines 11-27, paragraph [0036] and [0048]-[0050] and Figs. 8, 12, and 13.

6. GROUNDS FOR REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED.

A. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 11, and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by USPN 3,679,876 issued to Faith.

B. Claims 3-7, 9, 10, 12-16, 19-23, and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over USPN 6,335,084 issued to Biegelsen in view of Faith.

7. ARGUMENT.

Grounds For Rejection A – Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 11, and 18 stand rejected as being anticipated by USPN 3,679,876 issued to Faith.

Claim 1 is directed to an apparatus that includes the following:

1. a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;
2. a sensor;
3. a transport mechanism to move the tray past the sensor to scan the sub-patterns; and
4. control logic operable to communicate with the sensor to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

In particular, Claim 1 recites an apparatus that is configured to move a tray passed a sensor. The tray is configured to hold a media stack. A plurality of sub-patterns are formed on the media stack. Each sub-pattern is formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack. Note the plural use of the term sheets. Each sub-pattern is formed on a plurality of sheets that make up the given subset. The apparatus includes control logic that is operable to communicate with the sensor to decipher imaging data from each sub-pattern for each of subset of sheets in the media stack. Paragraphs [0016] and [0017] of the Specification define the term pattern as an image

formed or imprinted on side of a stack of media sheets that is capable of encoding information. Claim 1 recites that this information is imaging data. According to paragraph [0017], imaging data is "any information that can be used, at least indirectly, to configure an imaging device." According to paragraph [0015], an imaging device is a device that is "capable of forming images on media" such as a sheet of paper.

Faith describes a deck of punch cards that are used to program a computer. Faith, col. 1, lines 6-10. To function properly, that cards of the deck must be read in a proper sequence, thus, the cards must be properly ordered within the deck. *See, e.g.*, Faith, Abstract. A magnetic stripe is formed on an edge of the deck. Faith, col. 1, lines 61-63. The magnetic stripe is used to record pulses such that each individual card has its own separate pulse combination recorded on its edge. Faith, col. 1, lines 65-68. The pulses on each card identify a prescribed position within the deck. Faith, col. 1, lines 67-70. The magnetic stripe on the deck can then be read to ensure that all cards are present and in the proper order before being read into the computer. Faith, Abstract.

The Appellant respectfully submits that even if Faith's magnetic stripe could be interpreted to include sub-patterns, then each such sub-pattern is the portion of the magnetic stripe that is formed on an individual card. Faith describes treating each card in the deck individually. In other words, Faith describes sequentially deciphering the pulses included on each card to ensure the cards are in proper order. Faith mentions nothing of a pattern of pulses that is common to a subset of the cards. As such, Faith mentions nothing of a sub-pattern formed on a subset of cards.

Moreover, the data encoded by Faith's stripe on a give card merely identifies a proper position of that card in a deck, the encoded data is not imaging data. As discussed above, imaging data is data used to configure an imaging device, and an imaging device is a device that is capable of forming images on media such as sheets of paper. The pulses on Faith's cards have nothing to do with configuring an imaging device.

For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over faith as is Claim 2 which depends from Claim 1.

Claim 6 is directed to a media source that includes the following:

1. a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;
2. means for moving the tray between a first position and a second position;
3. means for scanning the sub-patterns as the tray is moved between the first position and the second position; and
4. a means for deciphering the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

As with Claim 1, Faith fails to teach or suggest a plurality of sub-patterns each formed on a different subset of sheets or deciphering imaging data from such sub-patterns. Faith only describes sequentially deciphering pulses from individual cards to determine if each card is properly positioned in a deck. For at least these reasons Claim 6 and Claims 7 and 8 which depend from Claim 6 are patentable over Faith.

Claim 9 is directed to a data identification system and recites the following:

1. a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a

reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

2. a transport mechanism operable to move the tray between a first position and a second position;
3. a sensor positioned to scan the sub-patterns as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first position and the second position; and
4. logic coupled to the sensor and operable to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

As with Claim 1, Faith fails to teach or suggest a plurality of sub-patterns each formed on a different subset of sheets or deciphering imaging data from such sub-patterns. Faith only describes sequentially deciphering pulses from individual cards to determine if each card is properly positioned in a deck. For at least these reasons Claim 9 and Claims 7 and 8 which depend from Claim 6 are patentable over Faith.

For at least this reason, Claim 9 and Claims 10-16 and 18 which depend from Claim 9 are patentable over Faith.

Grounds For Rejection B – Claims 3-7, 9, 10, 12-16, 19-23, and 25-27 stand rejected as being unpatentable over USPN 6,335,084 issued to Biegelsen in view of Faith.

Claim 3 is directed to a media source that includes the following:

1. a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is

formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

2. a transport mechanism operable to move the tray between a first position in which the media stack can be loaded onto the tray and a second position in which a sheet from the media stack loaded onto the tray can be fed into a print path of an imaging device;
3. a sensor positioned so that it can scan the sub-patterns as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first and second positions; and
4. control logic operable to communicate with the sensor to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

Claim 3, like Claim 1, recites control logic that is operable to decipher, for each subset of media sheets, the sub-pattern formed on that subset of sheets. For each sub-pattern, the control logic deciphers imaging data. The imaging data encoded by at least one-sub-pattern identifies an expected number of media sheets in a given subset.

Biegelsen describes a stack of media sheets 12. The pattern 20 is formed on an edge 18 of each sheet 20. Biegelsen, col. 3, lines 47-67 and Figs. 1 and 2. The pattern, as shown in Biegelsen's Fig. 7 is unique to each sheet – in other words – within a stack, consecutive sheets can have different patterns. Thus, the characteristics identified by a pattern 20 identify only the characteristics of the individual sheet 12 on which that pattern 20 is formed. As a consequence, Biegelsen' pattern 20 is not a "sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets" that identifies "an expected number of sheets in that subset." Biegelsen's code 20 is only useable to identify a characteristic of a given sheet. Biegelsen, col. 3, lines 51-54. Biegelsen defines the term characteristic" to include weight, stiffness, grain orientation, classification, a punch hole pattern, and orientation. Biegelsen, col. 4, lines 10-19.

The Examiner, without support or explanation, states Biegelsen teaches "the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset implicitly taught depending on how many times a specific pattern is

sensed." The Appellant respectfully disagrees. Claim 3 recites that the sub-pattern itself encodes information identifying the number of sheets in a given subset. Biegelsen's code 20 has nothing to do with the number of sheets in a subset of sheets.

Moreover, while Biegelsen shows a stack of sheets 12 each having the same pattern 20 formed on an edge 18, Biegelsen mentions nothing of sequentially scanning each code 20 on each sheet 12 and then determining how many codes 20 were scanned. In particular, if the sheets 12 are left in a stack, Bieglesen provides no enablement for discerning the code on one sheet from the code on another sheet. The pattern appears the same from one sheet to the next as can be seen in Bieglesen's Figs. 1 and 2 below.

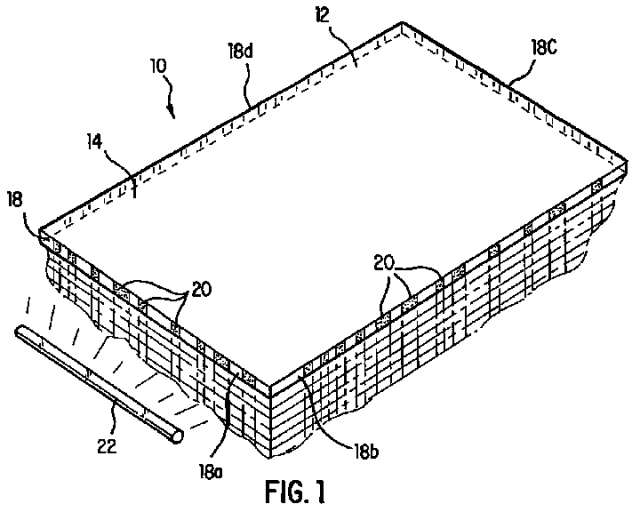

FIG. 1

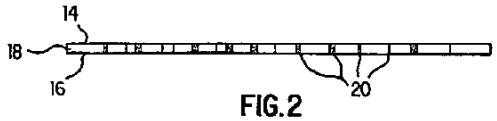

FIG.2

Thus, there could be no determination as to the number of codes or the number of sheets in the stack. Further, Bieglesen mentions nothing of sequentially removing and then scanning sheets from a stack and counting the number of scanned identical patterns.

Consequently, Bieglesen alone or combined with Faith fails to teach or suggest "control logic operable to communicate with the sensor to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack' where a given sub-pattern encodes information identifying an expected number of sheets in a subset. For

at least this reason Claim 3 and Claims 4 and 5 which depend from Claim 3 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 6 is directed to a media source that includes the following:

1. a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;
2. means for moving the tray between a first position and a second position;
3. means for scanning the sub-patterns as the tray is moved between the first position and the second position; and
4. a means for deciphering the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

As with Claim 3, Bieglesen and Faith fail to teach or suggest a means for deciphering the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack' where a given sub-pattern encodes information identifying an expected number of sheets in a subset. For at least this reason Claim 6 and Claims 7 and 8 which depend from Claim 6 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 9 is directed to a data identification system and recites the following:

1. a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a

plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

2. a transport mechanism operable to move the tray between a first position and a second position;
3. a sensor positioned to scan the sub-patterns as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first position and the second position; and
4. logic coupled to the sensor and operable to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

As with Claim 3, Bieglesen and Faith fail to teach or suggest logic coupled to a sensor that is operable to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack' where a given sub-pattern encodes information identifying an expected number of sheets in a subset. For at least this reason Claim 9 and Claims 10-16 and 18 which depend from Claim 9 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 13 depends from Claim 9 and recites that the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes parameter settings for a corresponding subset of sheets, and the control logic is operable to decipher the given sub-pattern to identify the parameter settings. Addressing Claim 13, the Examiner states:

> As for claim 13 Biegelsen et al. teaches in Fig. 8 the data identification system wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes parameter settings for a corresponding subset of sheets, Col. 4 lines 1-8, and the control logic is operable to decipher the given sub-pattern to identify the parameter settings, Col. 6 lines 29-44.

The Appellant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assessment. As noted, Biegelsen teaches that a code 20 formed on a sheet 12 can identify characteristics such as weight and grain orientation of the sheet 12. Biegelsen's code 20 does not include parameter settings. Instead, Biegelsen teaches that a user selects a media of a particular type. Biegelsen, col. 5, lines 4-8. Biegelsen's processor 28 then can adjust parameters according to type of media selected by the user. Biegelsen, col. 6, lines 36-38. In other words, Biegelsen's parameter settings are not included in the code. Instead, they are known to Biegelsen's processor 28.

Consequently Biegelsen fails to teach or suggest control logic that is operable to decipher the given sub-pattern to identify the parameter settings included in that sub-patterns. Fait is silent on this matter. For at least this additional reason, Claim 13 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 19 is directed to an imaging device and recites the following:

1. a print engine operable to form an image on a sheet of media;
2. a media source operable to supply a media stack, the media source including:
    a. a tray for holding the media stack, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;
    b. a transport mechanism operable to move the tray between a first position and a second position;

c. a sensor positioned to scan the sub-patterns as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first position and the second position;

3. a transfer mechanism operable to transfer sheets of media from the media source to the print engine;

4. control logic in communication with the media source, the print engine, and the transfer mechanism, the control logic operable to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack and to control the operation of the print engine with respect to each subset of sheets according to the imaging data for that subset of sheets.

As with Claim 3, Bieglesen and Faith fail to teach or suggest control logic that is operable to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack' where a given sub-pattern encodes information identifying an expected number of sheets in a subset. For at least this reason, Claim 19 and Claims 20-25 which depend from Claim 19 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 21 depends from Claim 19 and recites a user interface in communication with the control logic and wherein the control logic is operable to cause the user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for one or more of the subsets of sheets. Addressing Claim 21, the Examiner cites Bieglesen, col. 5, lines 18-28. That passage mentions nothing of displaying parameter settings. Instead, it merely describes displaying a message indicating that a user selected media type is not available. Bieglesen, col. 5, lines 22-24.

For at least this additional reason, Claim 21 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 22 depends from Claim 21 which depends from Claim 19. Claim 22 recites that the control logic is operable to cause the user interface to generate a display that includes user selectable options corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging

data for one or more of the subsets of sheets. Addressing Claim 21, the Examiner cites Bieglesen, col. 5, lines 18-28. That passage mentions nothing of displaying user selectable options corresponding to imaging data. Instead, it merely describes displaying a message indicating that a user selected media type is not available. Bieglesen, col. 5, lines 22-24.

For at least this additional reason, Claim 21 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 23 depends from Claim 19 and recites that:

1. the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes imaging parameter settings;
2. the imaging device further comprising a user interface in communication with the control logic and capable of displaying information to a user; and
3. the control logic is operable to cause the user interface to display information corresponding to the imaging parameter settings the subset of sheets on which the given sub-pattern is imprinted.

As explained above with respect to Claim 13, Bieglesen and Faith fail to teach or suggest a sub-pattern that includes parameter settings. The references also fail to teach control logic that is operable to cause the user interface to display information corresponding to the imaging parameter settings. To support the rejection, the Examiner cites Bieglesen, col. 5, lines 18-28. That passage mentions nothing of displaying parameter settings. Instead, it merely describes displaying a message indicating that a user selected media type is not available. Bieglesen, col. 5, lines 22-24.

For at least this additional reason, Claim 23 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 25 depends from Claim 19 and recites that:

1. the imaging data for each sub-pattern includes an expected number of sheets of media in a corresponding subset of sheets on which the pattern is imprinted;
2. the imaging device further comprises a user interface in communication with the control logic; and
3. the control logic is further operable to cause the user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the expected number of sheets in the media stack.

Addressing Claim 25, the Examiner, without explanation, states:

> As for claim 25 Biegelsen et al. teaches in Fig. 8, an imaging device, 110, wherein the imaging data for each sub-pattern includes an expected number of sheets in a corresponding subset of sheets implicitly taught depending on how many times a specific pattern is sensed; the imaging device further comprising a user interface seen in the display, 32, in communication with the control logic and wherein the control logic is further operable to cause the user interface to generate a display on 32, corresponding, at least indirectly, to the expected number of sheets in the media stack.

As already explained, Biegelsen fails to teach or suggest a sub-pattern that encodes information identifying an expected number of sheets. Furthermore, the only information displayed on Biegelsen's display 32 is a message indicating that a user selected media type is not available. Bieglesen, col. 5, lines 22-24.

For at least this additional reason, Claim 25 is patentable over the cited references.

Claim 26 is directed to an imaging device and recites the following:

1. a print engine operable to form an image on a sheet of media;

2. a first media source operable to supply a first media stack, the first media source including:
    a. a first tray for holding the first media stack, the first media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a first pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the first pattern including a plurality of first sub-patterns, each first sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the first media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the first sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets in the first media stack identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;
    b. a first transport mechanism operable to move the first tray between a first position and a second position;
    c. a first sensor positioned to scan the first sub-patterns as the first transport mechanism moves the first tray between the first position and the second position;
3. a second media source operable to supply a second media stack, the second media source including:
    a. a second tray for holding the second media stack, the second media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a second pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the second pattern including a plurality of second sub-patterns, each second sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the second media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the second sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets in the second media stack identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

b. a second transport mechanism operable to move the second tray between a third position and a fourth position;

c. a second sensor positioned to scan the second sub-patterns as the second transport mechanism moves the second tray between the third position and the fourth positions;

4. a transfer mechanism operable to transfer sheets of media from the first and second media sources to the print engine;

5. control logic in communication with the first and second media sources, the print engine, and the transfer mechanism, the control logic operable to decipher the first and second sub-patterns to identify imaging data for each of the first subsets of sheets in the first media stack and second media data for each of the second subsets of sheets in the second media stack and to control the operation of the transfer mechanism and to control the operation of the print engine so that the first imaging data for a given one of the subsets of sheets in the first media stack is used when a media sheet from that given subset of sheets from the first media stack is transferred from the first media source and the second imaging data for a given one of the subsets of sheets in the second media stack is used when a media sheet from that given subset of sheets from the second media stack is transferred from the second media source.

As with Claim 3, Bieglesen and Faith fail to teach or suggest control logic that is operable to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in each media stack where a given sub-pattern encodes information identifying an expected number of sheets in a subset. For at least this reason, Claim 26 and Claim 27 which depends from Claim 26 are patentable over the cited references.

Claim 27 depends from Claim 26 and recites a user interface in communication with the control logic, wherein the control logic is operable to cause the user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for the subsets

of sheets in the first and second media stacks. Es previously explained, the only information displayed on Biegelsen's display 32 is a message indicating that a user selected media type is not available. Bieglesen, col. 5, lines 22-24.

For at least this additional reason, Claim 27 is patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion: In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing the application to issue is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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July 23, 2008

APPENDIX OF CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL

1. (previously presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

a sensor;

a transport mechanism to move the tray past the sensor to scan the sub-patterns; and

control logic operable to communicate with the sensor to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

2. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a housing and wherein

the sensor is coupled to the housing such that the sensor is held stationary relative to the housing; and

the transport mechanism is coupled to the housing and the tray..

3. (previously presented) A media source, comprising:

a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

a transport mechanism operable to move the tray between a first position in which the media stack can be loaded onto the tray and a second position in which a sheet from the media stack loaded onto the tray can be fed into a print path of an imaging device;

a sensor positioned so that it can scan the sub-patterns as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first and second positions; and

control logic operable to communicate with the sensor to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

4. (original) The media source of Claim 3, further comprising a support holding the sensor stationary relative to the motion of the tray caused by the transport mechanism.

5. (original) The media source of Claim 3, wherein the tray, the transport mechanism, and the sensor are components of the imaging device.

6. (previously presented) A media source, comprising:

a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

means for moving the tray between a first position and a second position;

means for scanning the sub-patterns as the tray is moved between the first position and the second position; and

a means for deciphering the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

7. (original) The media source of Claim 6, wherein:

the media stack can be loaded onto the tray when the tray is in the first position; and

a sheet form the media stack can be fed into a print path of an imaging device when the tray is in the second position.

8. (previously presented) The media source of Claim 6, wherein the means for scanning include means for scanning the at least one side of the media stack as the tray is moved between the first position and the second position.

9. (previously presented) A data identification system, comprising:

a tray for holding a media stack, the media stack the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

a transport mechanism operable to move the tray between a first position and a second position;

a sensor positioned to scan the sub-patterns as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first position and the second position; and

logic coupled to the sensor and operable to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

10. (previously presented) The data identification system of Claim 9, wherein:

the media stack can be loaded onto the tray when the tray is in the first position; and

a sheet from the media stack can be fed into a print path of an imaging device when the tray is in the second position.

11. (original) The data identification system of Claim 9, further comprising a support holding the sensor stationary relative to the motion of the tray caused by the transport mechanism.

12. (previously presented) The data identification system of Claim 9, wherein each sub-pattern encodes a reference and the control logic is operable to retrieve, for each reference, an entry in a look-up table associated with the reference, the entry including the imaging data for a given sub-pattern.

13. (previously presented) The data identification system of Claim 9, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes parameter settings for a corresponding subset of sheets, and the control logic is operable to decipher the given sub-pattern to identify the parameter settings.

14. (previously presented) The data identification system of Claim 9, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes a media type for a corresponding subset of sheets, and the control logic is operable to decipher the given sub-pattern to identify the media type.

15. (previously presented) The data identification system of Claim 14, wherein the control logic is operable to select parameter settings for the corresponding subset of sheets according to the media type.

16. (original) The data identification system of Claim 9, wherein the tray, the transport mechanism, the sensor, and the control logic are components of an imaging device.

17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) The data identification system of Claim 9, wherein the imaging data for each sub-pattern includes an expected number of sheets of media in a corresponding subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is imprinted, and the control logic is operable to decipher the sub-patterns to identify the expected number of sheets in the media stack.

19. (previously presented) An imaging device, comprising:

a print engine operable to form an image on a sheet of media;

a media source operable to supply a media stack, the media source including:

a tray for holding the media stack, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

a transport mechanism operable to move the tray between a first position and a second position;

a sensor positioned to scan the sub-patterns as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first position and the second position;

a transfer mechanism operable to transfer sheets of media from the media source to the print engine;

control logic in communication with the media source, the print engine, and the transfer mechanism, the control logic operable to decipher the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack and to control the operation of the print engine with respect to each subset of sheets according to the imaging data for that subset of sheets.

20. (previously presented) The imaging device of Claim 19, wherein:

the media stack can be loaded onto the tray when the tray is in the first position; and

a sheet from the media stack can be supplied to the print engine when the tray is in the second position.

21. (previously presented) The imaging device of Claim 19, further comprising a user interface in communication with the control logic and wherein the control logic is operable to cause the user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for one or more of the subsets of sheets.

22. (previously presented) The imaging device of Claim 21, wherein the control logic is operable to cause the user interface to generate a display that includes user selectable options corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for one or more of the subsets of sheets.

23. (previously presented) The imaging device of Claim 19, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes imaging parameter settings, the imaging device further comprising a user interface in communication with the control logic and capable of displaying information to a user and wherein the control logic is operable to cause the user interface to display information corresponding to the imaging parameter settings the subset of sheets on which the given sub-pattern is imprinted.

24. (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) The imaging device of Claim 19, wherein the imaging data for each sub-pattern includes an expected number of sheets of media in a corresponding subset of sheets on which the pattern is imprinted, the imaging device further comprising a user interface in communication with the control logic and wherein the control logic is further operable to cause the user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the expected number of sheets in the media stack.

26. (previously presented) An imaging device, comprising:

a print engine operable to form an image on a sheet of media;

a first media source operable to supply a first media stack, the first media source including:

a first tray for holding the first media stack, the first media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a first pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the first pattern including a plurality of first sub-patterns, each first sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the first media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the first sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets in the first media stack identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

a first transport mechanism operable to move the first tray between a first position and a second position;

a first sensor positioned to scan the first sub-patterns as the first transport mechanism moves the first tray between the first position and the second position;

a second media source operable to supply a second media stack, the second media source including:

a second tray for holding the second media stack, the second media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a second pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the second pattern including a plurality of second sub-patterns, each second sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the second media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the second sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets in the second media stack identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

a second transport mechanism operable to move the second tray between a third position and a fourth position;

a second sensor positioned to scan the second sub-patterns as the second transport mechanism moves the second tray between the third position and the fourth position;

a transfer mechanism operable to transfer sheets of media from the first and second media sources to the print engine;

control logic in communication with the first and second media sources, the print engine, and the transfer mechanism, the control logic operable to decipher the first and second sub-patterns to identify imaging data for each of the first subsets of sheets in the first media stack and second media data for each of the second subsets of sheets in the second media stack and to control the operation of the transfer mechanism and to control the operation of the print engine so that the first imaging data for a given one of the subsets of sheets in the first media stack is used when a media sheet from that given subset of sheets from the first media stack is transferred from the first media source and the second imaging data for a given one of the subsets of sheets in the second media stack is used when a media sheet from that given subset of sheets from the second media stack is transferred from the second media source.

27. (previously presented) The image forming device of Claim 26, further comprising a user interface in communication with the control logic, wherein the control logic is operable to cause the user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for the subsets of sheets in the first and second media stacks.

28. (withdrawn) A method comprising:

providing a tray for holding a media, the tray being moveable between a first position and a second position, the media stack having opposing faces joined by sides, a pattern being formed on at least one of the sides, each face being a face of a media sheet, the pattern including a plurality of sub-patterns, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-

pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset;

moving the tray between the first position and the second position;

scanning the sub-patterns as the tray is moved between the first position and the second position; and

deciphering the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

29. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 28, wherein moving includes moving the tray between a first position in which the media stack can be loaded onto the tray and a second position in which a sheet form the media stack can be fed into a print path of an imaging device.

30. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 28, wherein scanning comprises scanning the sub-patterns using a sensor whose position is held stationary relative to the motion of the tray.

31. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 28, wherein each sub-pattern encodes a reference and wherein deciphering comprises retrieving, for each reference, an entry in a look-up table associated with the reference, the entry including the imaging data for a given sub-pattern.

32. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 28, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes imaging parameter settings for a corresponding subset of sheets and deciphering comprises deciphering the given sub-pattern to identify the imaging parameter settings.

33. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 28, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes a media type for a corresponding subset of sheets and deciphering comprises deciphering the given sub-pattern to identify the media type.

34. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 33, further comprising selecting imaging parameter settings for the corresponding subset of sheets according to the media type.

35. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 28, further comprising causing a user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for a given subset of sheets.

36. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 28, further comprising, identifying a sheet as being a sheet retrieved from a particular subset of sheets of the media stack and forming an image on the sheet according to the imaging data for that subset of sheets.

37. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 28, wherein a given sub-pattern formed on a particular subset of media sheets encodes information corresponding to first imaging data, the method further comprising:

identifying a first sheet as being a sheet retrieved from the particular subset of sheets in media stack and instructing the formation of an image on the sheet according to the first imaging data; and

identifying a second sheet as not being a sheet retrieved from the particular subset of sheets in the media stack and instructing the formation of an image on the second sheet according to second imaging data different from the first imaging data.

38. (cancelled)

39. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 28, wherein the imaging data for each given subset of sheets includes an expected number of sheets in that subset, and deciphering comprises deciphering the sub-patterns to identify an expected number of sheets in the media stack.

40. (withdrawn) A computer readable medium having instructions for:

directing a transport mechanism to move a tray between a first position and a second position;

causing a sensor to scan sub-patterns formed on a side of the media stack as the transport mechanism moves the tray between the first position and the second position, each sub-pattern being formed on a different subset of sheets in the media stack and encoding imaging data or a reference associated with the imaging data for the subset of sheets on which the sub-pattern is formed, the imaging data for at least one subset of sheets identifying an expected number of sheets in that subset; and

deciphering the imaging data from the sub-patterns for each subset of sheets in the media stack.

41. (withdrawn) The medium of Claim 40, wherein each sub-pattern encodes a reference and the instructions for deciphering include instructions for retrieving, for each reference, an entry in a look-up table associated with the reference, the entry including the imaging data for a given sub-pattern.

42. (withdrawn) The medium of Claim 40, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes imaging parameter settings for a corresponding subset of sheets, and the instructions for deciphering include instructions for deciphering the given sub-pattern to identify the imaging parameter settings.

43. (withdrawn) The medium of Claim 40, wherein the imaging data for a given sub-pattern includes a media type for a corresponding subset of sheets, and the instructions for deciphering include instructions for deciphering the given sub-pattern to identify the media type.

44. (withdrawn) The medium of Claim 43, having further instructions for selecting imaging parameter settings for the corresponding subset of sheets according to the media type.

45. (withdrawn) The medium of Claim 40, having further instructions for causing a user interface to generate a display corresponding, at least indirectly, to the imaging data for a particular subset of sheets.

46. (withdrawn) The medium of Claim 40, having further instructions for identifying a sheet as being a sheet retrieved from a particular subset of sheets in the media stack and instructing the formation of an image on the sheet according to the imaging data for that particular subset of sheets.

47. (withdrawn) The medium of Claim 40, wherein a particular sub-pattern encodes information corresponding to first imaging data for a corresponding subset of sheets, the medium having further instructions for:

identifying a first sheet as being a sheet retrieved from the particular subset of sheets in the media stack and instructing the formation of an image on the first sheet according to the first imaging data; and

identifying a second sheet as not being a sheet retrieved from the particular subset of sheets in the media stack and instructing the formation of an image on the second sheet according to second imaging data different from the first imaging data.

48. (cancelled).

49. (withdrawn) The medium of Claim 40, wherein the imaging data for each sub-pattern includes an expected number of sheets on which the given sub-pattern is imprinted, and the instructions for deciphering include instructions for deciphering the sub-patterns to identify an expected number of sheets in the media stack.

Evidence Appendix

There is no extrinsic evidence to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no evidence is presented in this Appendix.

Related Proceedings Appendix

There are no related proceedings to be considered in this Appeal. Therefore, no such proceedings are identified in this Appendix.